Cyclone in 1999, drought in 2000, flood in 2001 and drought in 2002. The total loss of property due to these disasters was substantial. It is not feasible to access the exact financial implications of the overall losses in community and private assets due to these calamities.

(b)The Government of India has been stressing the need for greater emphasis on disaster prevention and mitigation programmes, besides relief and rehabilitation. The recommendations made to States including Orissa in this regard *inter-alia* focus on the establishment of State Disaster Management Authority, formation of specialized search and rescue teams, integratng disaster mitigation concerns with development plans, drawing up of disaster management plans at the State, district and village levels preparation of specific hazard related plans for hazard prone district maintenance of online inventory of resources for disaster management, training, education, awareness etc. The State Government has taken several steps for disaster preparedness and mitigation which *inter-alia* include setting up of Orissa State Disaster Mitigation Authority, development of specialized search and rescue teams, implementation of community based disaster preparedness programmes in ten coastal blocks, construction of 102 multi-purpose cyclone shelters, 901 high school-cum-cyclone shelters, 549 primary schools which can be used as cyclone shelters, improvement of 215 health institutions, strengthening of district control rooms, procurement of relief line equipments, and awareness generation.

(c) The Government of India has been extending advice and support to the State Governments including Orissa in the formulation of long term disaster management plans; and building up capacity. The Central Government has also released an assistance of Rs. 999.47 crore to Government of Orissa from the National Calamity Contingency Fund during 1999-2000 to 2002-2003, besides Centre's share of assistance under the Calamity Relief Fund.

Outcome of discussions held in Inter-State Council's Standing Committee

313. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a meeting of the Inter-State Council's Standing Committee was held at New Delhi in the middle of May, 2003;

(b) if so, the details of persons participated in the meeting;

(c) the outcome of the discussions held in the meeting; and

(d) the further steps taken by Government on the outcome of the discussions held in the meeting?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) The ninth meeting of the Standing Committee of the Inter-State Council was held on 13th May, 2003 in New Delhi.

(b) The meeting was chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister and was attended by the Union Cabinet Ministers for Finance and Company Affairs, and Labour and the Chief Minister of Assam, Jammu & Kashmir, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal, Minister for Finance and Legislative Affairs, and Special Representative (Cabinet Rank) of Andhra Pradesh, and Minister for Home and Minor Irrigation of Karnataka, besides officers from the Central and the State Government.

(c) and (d) The Standing Committee considered 17 recommendations of Sarkaria Commission's report on Centre-State relations to the subjects of Administrative Relations (one), Emergency Provisions (twelve) and Deployment of Union Armed Forces (four). In addition, the Standing Committee considered report of the sub-Committee of the Inter-State Council on contract labour and contract appointments, and implementation report on decisions taken by Inter-State Council on the recommendations of Sarkaria Commission. The recommendations of the Standing Committee are required to be placed in the next meeting of the Inter-State Council scheduled to be held on 27-28 August, 2003 in Srinagar, for its consideration.

Discussion in the meeting of inter-State Council's Standing Committee

314. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Standing Committee of the Inter-State Council had taken up for discussion the Emergency Provision of the Constitution on 13th May, 20C3;